



Dancing Snowy Egrets

Described as the best birding area in coastal Southern California, Imperial Beach is home to 370 species of birds. Bird watching is a year-round activity in Imperial Beach. During Spring and Fall migration, thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl and neotropical birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway stop to forage on the beach and in protected wetlands. Summer brings a rare combination of colonial nesting seabirds, like Black Skimmers and Gull-billed Terns, to the South Bay, while migratory songbirds nest within the adjacent river valleys. Even the winter months provide opportunities for observing wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors. Resident species, such as the endangered Light-footed Clapper Rail, and a number of shorebirds, wading birds, and songbirds can be observed throughout the year.



Light-footed Clapper Rail

Coastal vegetation is best viewed in the winter and spring when indigenous plants such as beach evening primrose and red sand verberna cover the dune habitat with color, and deerweed, sage, lemonadeberry, and sumac fill native plant gardens and the natural upland habitats with the scents of spring. If you are really lucky you may come across a stand of rare salt marsh bird's beak.

Resident species such, as the endangered Light-footed Clapper Rail, and a number of shorebirds, wading birds, and songbirds can be observed throughout the year.

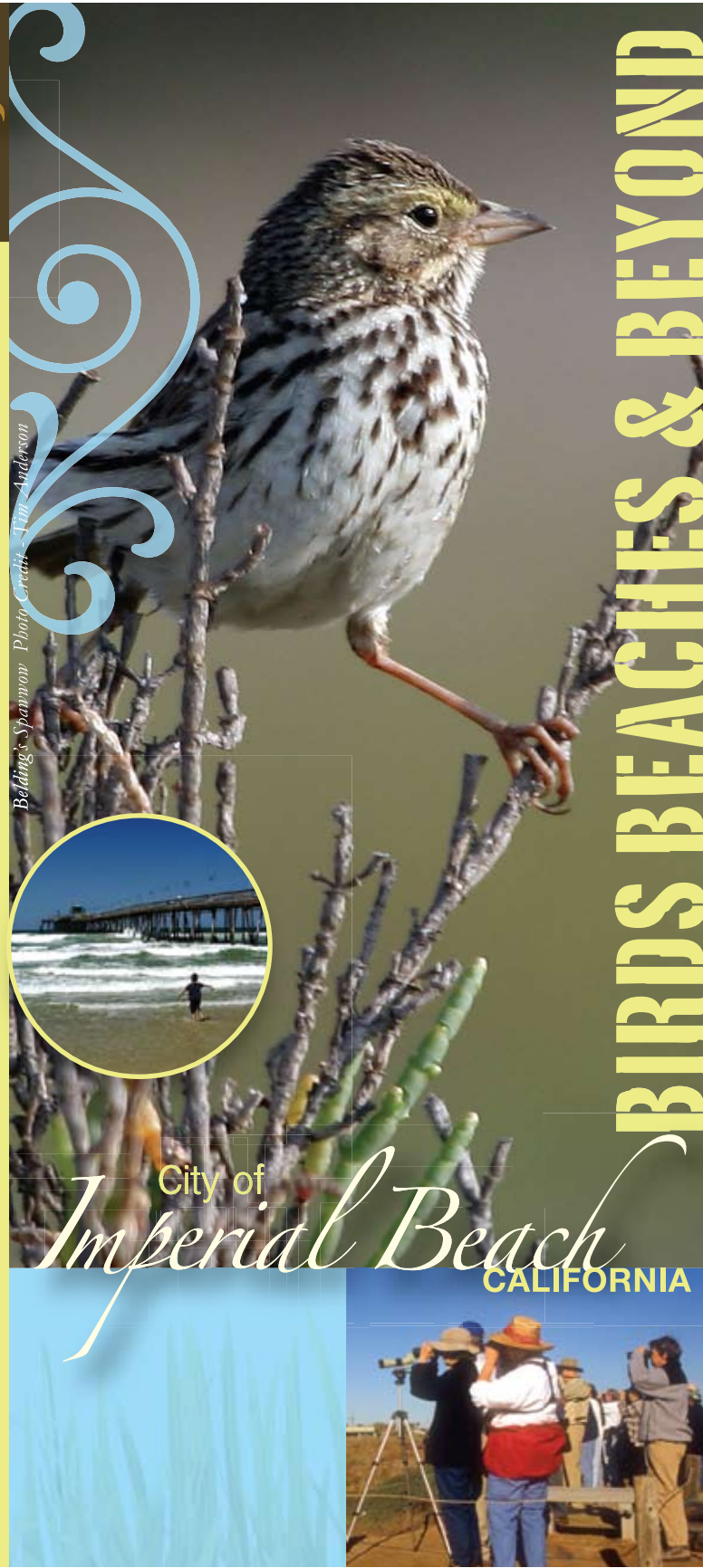
The five-acre native plant garden at the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center showcases the area's native plants and Coastal Sage Scrub, Coast Dunes, Riparian and Salt Marsh habitats. Surrounding the Visitor Center are acres of natural and restored, coastal salt marshes protected within the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge. A public trail system provides opportunities to visit the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, recently designated a Wetland of International Importance (RAMSAR), and the adjacent Tijuana River Valley.

Special Bird Activities
San Diego Bird Festival International Migratory Bird Day National Wildlife Refuge Week Christmas Bird Counts San Diego Rare Bird Alerts Periodic tours of the Refuge and Border Field State Park Endangered Species Day



Southern California enjoys a Mediterranean climate with an annual mean temperature ranging between 61°F to 66°F. The summers are dry with the rainy months from November to April. Year round you can swim, surf, sunbathe, walk, jog, fish, hike, watch birds or build a sandcastle! The City of Imperial Beach (IB) is 4.5 square miles with an approximate population of 28,000 and is the most southwesterly city in the continental United States. IB is situated 12 miles south of downtown San Diego, border Mexico, and is an undiscovered geographic gem where the ocean meets the land and the river meets the sea. IB is surrounded by 4,000 acres of protected habitats supporting wildlife and native vegetation unique to coastal Southern California. Of note are the many species of birds observed in these habitats. The San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge to the north and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve to the south are both designated as Globally Important Bird Areas. To the northeast and southeast of the city are large areas of native habitat preserved within the Otay River Valley Regional Park, the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, and Border Field State Park. IB is a birder's delight!

CONTACT INFO
Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center
Tel (619) 575-3613 Fax (619) 575-6913
Imperial Beach Chamber of Commerce
702 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, CA 91932
(619) 424-3151
www.cityofib.com
(click on ecotourism)



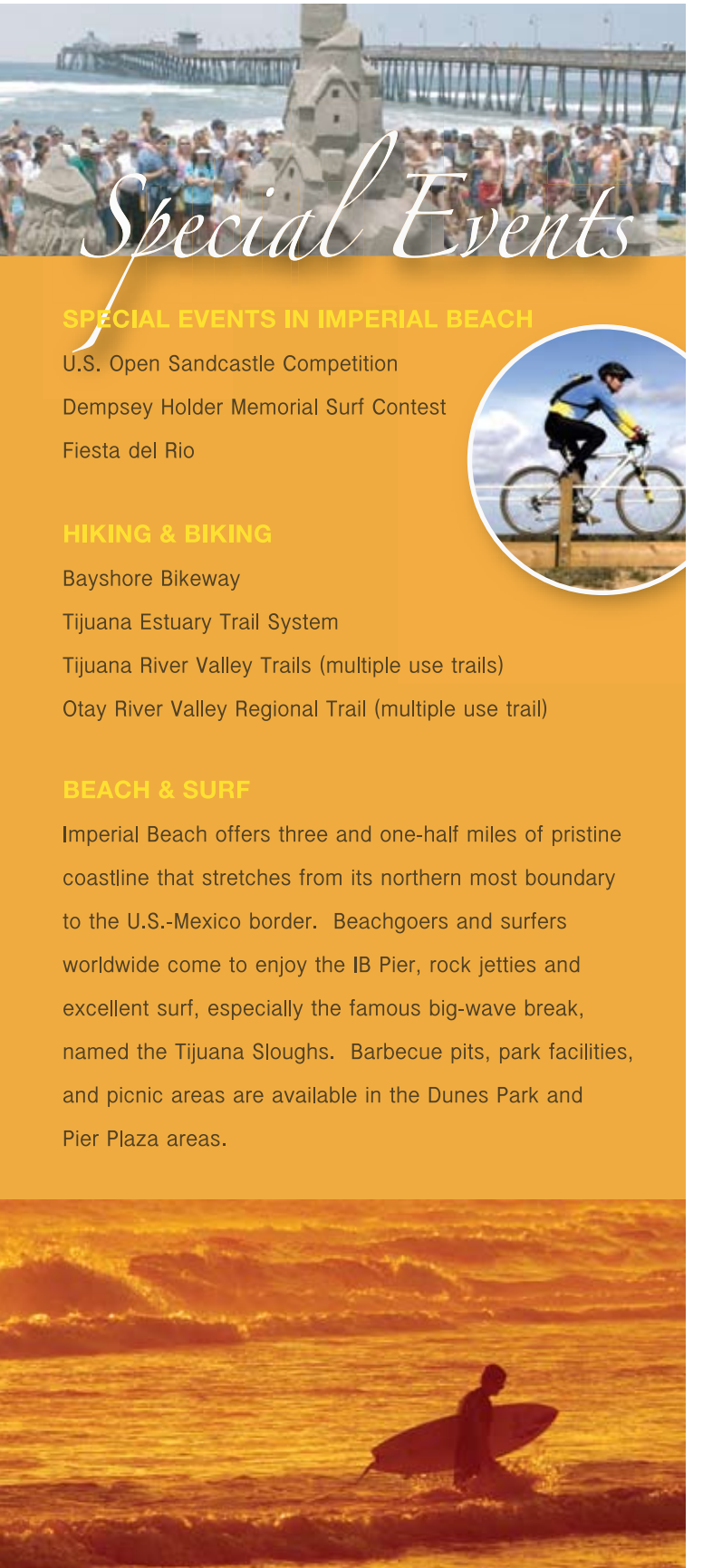
- 1 Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- 2 Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge
- 3 Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center
- 4 Seacoast Drive, 301 Caspian Way Southern End
- 5 Tijuana River Valley Regional Park
- 6 Dairy Mart Pond Ecological Reserve
- 7 Border Field State Park
- 8 Imperial Beach Pier
- 9 San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (7th Street, 8th Street, and 13th Street, northern end, and Biological Study Area)



Brush Rabbit



Tijuana River National Estuarine Reserve
Including all of Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and Border Field State Park, the 2500 acre Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of last estuaries in Southern California that remains undivided by roads or railroads. This oasis amidst 2 major urban centers, is an important environmental treasure providing wildlife habitat, stormwater and pollution control and valuable open space for the public's enjoyment. It is a rare feature in California, where 90% of the coastal wetlands have been lost to development.



- SPECIAL EVENTS IN IMPERIAL BEACH**
- U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition
 - Dempsey Holder Memorial Surf Contest
 - Fiesta del Rio
- HIKING & BIKING**
- Bayshore Bikeway
 - Tijuana Estuary Trail System
 - Tijuana River Valley Trails (multiple use trails)
 - Otay River Valley Regional Trail (multiple use trail)

BEACH & SURF
Imperial Beach offers three and one-half miles of pristine coastline that stretches from its northern most boundary to the U.S.-Mexico border. Beachgoers and surfers worldwide come to enjoy the IB Pier, rock jetties and excellent surf, especially the famous big-wave break, named the Tijuana Sloughs. Barbecue pits, park facilities, and picnic areas are available in the Dunes Park and Pier Plaza areas.